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BULLETIN

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MAN-A-MONTH VOLUNTEERS

MELVIL DEWEY

EVERY intelligent member has a distinct duty to the A. L. A. for 1907. Mr Lane in our last number urged all to read our *Bulletin* and thus keep informed of what the A. L. A. has done, is doing and is going to do. That will give you faith; but faith without works is dead. We have lived, worked and hoped for thirty years, or a full generation. Now, larger and better things are just ahead. In 1876 librarians were, like the conies, feeble folk. Our first conference was a bibliothecal John the Baptist crying in Philadelphia, and our field was in Locust street and Wissahickon. Some of us dreamed dreams and saw visions, and the wisest thought us prophets and the foolish called us cranks, but with an eye single to the highest public good, we faithfully pressed on. At the close of thirty years we should inventory results.

The small beginnings based on mustard seed faith have grown from the little shrub to a great tree and now certain fowls of the air incline to roost in its branches. Some are useful birds, but some will bear watching and a vigorous "shoo." But the best ship accumulates some barnacles and the noblest trees some fungous growths which should be lopped off.

No one questions that modern librarianship has become a world movement. It has won its place as a profession. Its national, state and local associations, training schools, state departments and commissions, liberal appropriations favoring legislation, unparalleled gifts and universal public commendation have placed it side by side with the public school system. In this wonderful work among all civil-